



# Newsletter

# Newsletter



## Dear Parents and Carers

### Exams

With the start of the exam season, students and teachers have been working very hard over the past few weeks completing coursework, revising and sitting their exams. Year 11 had a superb final day all together as a year group on Thursday 16th May. Behaviour was outstanding, and they all enjoyed their final assembly together, where 5 years of Rising to the Challenge were celebrated by Miss Cheshire and her year group. Many awards were presented and tears were shed by students and staff alike. They have been an excellent year group and made all of us proud. We will celebrate again together at the Prom on Thursday 20th June. Well done to all of you.

Year 13 will be saying their fond farewells at their final assembly on Friday 24th May and looking forward to a spectacular Prom for them, on Monday 24th June. Good luck to all students taking GCSEs, AS and A Levels.

### New student toilets

I am very pleased to say that this summer the C Block girls' and boys' toilet areas will be replaced by completely remodelled facilities. The student council has chosen the colour scheme for the new toilets, which will provide a more pleasant, modern environment. Students will benefit from the hygiene provided by auto flush toilets and auto hand wash facilities. An important feature will be the improved supervision of the toilets, to ensure all students are confident that they will find the toilets free from any smoke, litter or bullying. I have been very keen for us to undertake this project, having seen examples of the kind of toilet facilities that are provided in brand new school buildings. Over time, we plan to replace all of the student toilets, and we continue to be very grateful to the Friends of Tarpорley and the H.S.A for the fund-raising that helps us to maintain a rolling improvement programme for our facilities.

### School Uniform

Thank you to all the students who are wearing their uniform correctly and smartly. May I politely request that before purchasing any new uniform items you check the school uniform list, which is available on the website. Our uniform shop now sells reasonably priced skirts of a suitable length. We know that some students choose to have piercings done during the summer. Please remember that no pierced jewellery is allowed apart from one plain earring in the normal part of the ear lobe, so any other piercing needs to have healed in time for the jewellery to be removed before the start of the

autumn term. The rules on jewellery are also set out in the uniform list. Many thanks for your support in ensuring that your sons and daughters are correctly dressed for school.

Finally, my thanks go to parents and staff for all their support for students preparing for their exams. I know how hard our students are working, and how much effort goes into coaching and encouraging them at this important time.

Best wishes

SARAH LEE  
Headteacher

## Junior Maths Challenge

On Thursday 25th April, 130 pupils from year 7 and 8 took part in the Junior Maths Challenge. The Junior Maths Challenge is an annual competition aimed at the top third of pupils in year 8 and below. The challenge involves answering 25 multiple choice questions within one hour, with the top 40% of students nationally receiving a gold, silver or bronze certificate. The school managed to achieve 53 gold, silver or bronze certificates, above the national average which is a fantastic achievement that the pupils should be very proud of. The results will be announced in the Summer Term when certificates will be handed out. Look out for an update in the next newsletter for some of the results. Congratulations to all those pupils who entered.

## Trip to Barcelona

Students of Spanish from years 11, 12 and 13 enjoyed a cultural trip to Barcelona from 19 – 24 April. We made the most of every minute by packing in lots of different cultural activities and opportunities to use our Spanish. Students went shopping for their picnic lunch in the famous market of La Boqueria on Las Ramblas which we ate in the beautiful setting of Parc Güell, on the famous mosaic bench designed by Gaudí with a panoramic view of the city.

We enjoyed authentic meals and tapas (even following their meal times of eating as late as 10pm!) and spent most of the time outdoors, taking in the sights of the city on foot and by metro. We even spent one day meeting up with students from le Lycée Français de Barcelone who took us on a bi-lingual tour of the old part of the city.

Everyone agreed that we had a great time and that it was a fantastic way to get to know more about Spanish and Catalan culture and this amazing city. It goes without saying that everyone behaved impeccably and that they were an absolute pleasure to travel with.



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## Car Bazaar on tour.....

On Thursday, 9th May, we were lucky enough to get the chance to go Brian's Classic Car Garage near Knutsford with Miss Wade. This was after coming second in the Weaver Vale Airport Group Starship Enterprise Challenge. We saw a variety of different cars, including Aston Martin DB3s, Alfa Romeo 8c, Porsche Speedster, and many others!

One car that truly amazed us was the 1911 Hupmobile which very expensive and looked more like a tractor than a modern day car!

Brian set up his own business similar to ours, by selling Austin 7's but now he sells lots of refurbished classic cars to collectors. Brian has raced in many prestigious competitions with his F3 car and various other racers.

Alex spent a long time staring at the Aston Martin like he was brainwashed... while Ewan couldn't keep his eyes off the biscuits (perhaps not as car focussed as the rest of us!) We hope to keep in contact with Brian's Classic Car company as we hope to sell products to him in the future. He also gave us some tips of the trade as he explained how selling old photographs or paintings are very profitable and opened our eyes to new paths our business could take. We would like to thank Brian for his hospitality and Jason Butler of HSBC who arranged the meeting for us.

Jake Griffiths, Alex Palmer and Ewan Price



A Porsche 911 S!

## Summer Arts Festival – 10th & 11th July

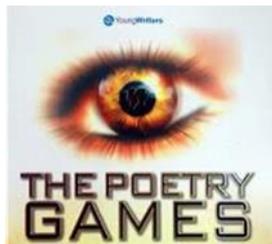
Following on from a very successful event in 2012, Tarporley High School will again hold the Summer Arts Festival. This will take place on the evenings of Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th July. It will feature music, dance and poetry performed by pupils at the school. There will also be an exhibition of GCSE and A level Art and Technology course work.

As well as perennial favourites from The Swing Band and various orchestras, there will be a chance for the audience to listen to original compositions by the young musicians at the school. Also, taking part will be various rock and indie bands based within school who will perform a variety of classical and popular pieces of music.

There will also be the opportunity for visitors to view A level photography work and also art works produced by the staff at the school, along with pupil's paintings, sculpture and prints.

Refreshments will be available on the evening.

## Poetry Success for Tarporley High School's 'Freedom Writers'



Students from Tarporley High School's Gifted and Talented 'Freedom Writers' group, have been rewarded for their considerable writing talent, achieving success in the regional rounds of Young Writers competition 'The Poetry Games'.

This national writing competition divides the country into twelve districts. Within these districts school students were given the chance to submit a poem on any topic that moved, interested or inspired them, choosing from a range of topics including the environment, body image, space and even fantasy worlds.

Ten Tarporley High School students were successful in the national rounds, and their poems have been selected to be published in an anthology for entries in the North West. The students were Anna Richardson, Georgia Hazeldine, Thomas Adkins and Isobel Clarke of Year 7, Tegan Berry, Rebecca Barry and Alice Hodgson of Year 8 and Megan Latham and Eilidh Bodfish of Year 9. Well done, Freedom Writers!



For some time we have been sending email and text messages to keep you informed. We have to pay for text messages and this can add up to a lot of money. We now have a new smartphone app - School Gateway. The app is completely free, and cuts the costs of text messaging. Great news as the money saved can be better used elsewhere.

If you have a smartphone, please download the app from Google Play or the Apple App Store.

**Step 1** - Download the 'School Gateway' app

**Step 2** - Select 'I'm a new user', enter your email and mobile number – your PIN number will then be sent to your phone

**Step 3** - Enter your PIN and login

That's it - you will now receive messages from us through the smartphone app. Your phone will buzz/ring just like when a text message arrives. So you will:

- receive instant notification of messages
- receive messages even when there is no mobile signal – provided you're connected to Wi-Fi
- not be charged for sending replies back to the school
- be able to store and receive messages all in one place

If your mobile phone isn't able to download the app, we will continue to send messages via text instead.

For further information please visit our new website at [www.tarporleyhigh.co.uk](http://www.tarporleyhigh.co.uk)

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## Year 11 Celebration Day



On Thursday 16th May 2013, Year 11 celebrated their last formal day in school after five years of hard work, fun and fabulous friendships. The students had a fantastic day which ended with a final assembly in the main hall. Luke Cherry was presented with a Headteacher's certificate for 100% attendance for five whole years. What a fantastic achievement. Well done Luke! Similarly, the following students also collected a Headteacher's certificate for 100% attendance in Year 11: Thomas Critchley, Richard Greenbury, Stephen Hyde, Luke Jeeves, Simon Joyce, Bethan Moseley and Harry Pugh. Harry also collected a second Headteachers Certificate for winning the Year 11 behaviour League, collecting a staggering 270 behaviour points in Year 11. I don't think Harry will ever forget collecting these two fantastic awards. Well done Harry.

Three other Headteachers Awards were presented to Morgan Gillett and Oliver Tyler for representing England at Handball and Matthew Sheen for representing England and winning a Team Gold at the Home Countries International Cross Country match earlier in the year.

The remaining awards were 'Clown Fish' awards, keeping in line with our year group theme of Rise to the Challenge (little fishes) which has guided us through the past five years at Tarporley. This section was an opportunity for me to dig out all the embarrassing photos and share some very funny stories of our time together over the years. What a great time we had!

Year 11 have been a fantastic year group and I am very proud of them all. This celebration day was by far the best day of my teaching career to date and I will never forget them. I know they will do extremely well in their GCSE exams and on behalf of the school, I would like to wish them the very best of luck over the coming weeks and of course the future. Keep smiling Year 11.

Miss Cheshire

## To Kill A Mockingbird Theatre Trip, Royal Exchange Theatre - Manchester 14th March 2013



GCSE English students, accompanied by Mrs Eaton, Miss Mulholland, Mr Voyce and Mrs Woodward braved the rainy streets of Manchester to enhance their knowledge of Harper Lee's celebrated novel 'To Kill A Mockingbird'. Telling a story of racism, prejudice and childhood, the Royal Exchange adaptation allowed students to lose themselves in the dusty

deep South town of 'Maycomb', bringing Lee's infamous words to life.

After making our trip to Manchester in record time, students enjoyed a leisurely stroll around the Royal Exchange's galleries and craft exhibitions, as well as taking in the incredible architecture of the old building.

At long last, the bell rang to signal that it was time to take our seats. The actors' portrayals of the distinctive characters had the students gripped, as they watched the landscape unfold in the theatre's unique 'round' structure. Students remarked particularly on the power of the infamous courtroom scene, where the characters joined the audience in the viewing gallery, and Atticus Finch even invited the audience to act as jury in Tom Robinson's ill-fated trial. The actors took turns narrating the story, which really brought Harper Lee's words to life, and reminded students of key passages from studying the novel.

After a blissful 2 hours, and an interval complete with lots of customary ice-cream, the students flooded from the theatre, Atticus Finch's words ringing in their ears 'You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view'.

Miss Mulholland

## China 2013—Wow!



On 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 50 students from Tarporley High School and 5 staff set out on a trip of a life time to the other side of the world – literally. Seven days in Beijing visiting the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, The Forbidden City, Olympic Stadium, Temple of Heaven, Behai Park, Tea Festivals, Kung-Fu, Opera, The Ming Tombs, Giant Pandas, The Summer Palace, Hutong, Rickshaw ride, weird food on sticks, Silk Museum, Chinese Acrobats and much more – an amazing cultural trip. Not to mention the language, music, food and wonderful people we met. The students were wonderful and we were praised wherever we went, from flights, to restaurants, to zoo, to the Bird's Nest and beyond – they were quite simply fantastic

ambassadors for the school and their generation. Thank you to you all for making the trip one to remember.

..... we are already preparing for China 2015 – it can't come soon enough.

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## Post-Visit Report Written by Sugie Govender & Merwin Moody



*"The Tarporley-Tongaat AfriTwin family celebrate another successful visit. Staff and students alike experienced an extremely enriching week, learning from the skills and experiences of our visitors Mr Sugie Govender and Mr Merwin Moody from Tongaat Secondary, Durban, South Africa. We look forward to sending Miss Henderson and Mr Ferne over to Tongaat in October to reciprocate the experience."*

The partnership programme has been a real eye opener for us. As educators at Tongaat Secondary we must admit that the number of methods of Best Practice that we have observed and seen working at both Tarporley and the Primary schools have been a real lesson in classroom practice. The passion, drive, loyalty and commitment of educators at Tarporley has definitely been over and above the normal call of duty and the extra hours that educators spend to ensure that they deliver only the best in the classroom has definitely been inspirational to us.

There is no doubt that the partnership between our two schools is going to go a long way to develop and improve the practices and procedures at our school in Tongaat. We believe that our own culture of education will start to mature and develop in this partnership. While we may not be able to provide the kind of resources because of the lack of funding, the attitude, commitment and loyalty given to the profession is definitely something that we can emulate on our side. From our week long observation at Tarporley we are convinced that the international standard set by Tarporley High School & 6th Form College is worthy of praise and emulation at other schools striving for excellence throughout the world.

Sugie Govender and Merwin Moody

## Sixth Form Charities

Following the success of charity week, Sixth Form students have been busy adding to their fund by offering their services to lower school students as 'Valets for a Day'. Jobs include carrying bags at lesson changeover and being on hand at lunch and break to procure delicacies from various shops and cafes in the local area! The Sixth Form charity fund has raised close to £2,000 this year and the trustees on the Sixth Form Council have agreed to donate the money between the following Year 13 students, who are undertaking voluntary work this summer, as well as a number of other charities nominated by the Council. Zak Dunstone will be working with the Stand by Me charity, involving teaching in a Nepalese school and orphanage. Isla McClellan plans to work with Personal Overseas Development, where she will be teaching English to 8-12 year old children in Thailand. Matthew Magee is helping to build a school in a rural community in Uganda as well as supporting conservation efforts with the endangered White Rhino with Camps International. Other charities supported are: SANDS (Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Society), Multiple Sclerosis Society, Teenage Cancer Trust, Tarporley War Memorial Hospital and Chester & District Committee for the Deaf. Our Sixth Formers are now deep into the exam season and working hard for their AS and A2-levels, for which we wish them every success and good luck!

## Business Alliance



On Monday 25th March 2013 two sixth form Students Gemma Penk and Ellie Sharpe along with Business Studies Teacher Miss Alison Wade hosted a business networking event at Piste Wine Bar in Tarporley on behalf of Tarporley Business Alliance. The TBA has been an on-going project for 6 years now but has recently experienced a lull in its desired aims. Therefore concerning this lack of development Angela Bartlett and Katrine Lidster enlisted the help of Miss Wade and two A level business Students. The aim of Tarporley Business Alliance is to promote and publicise each business in Tarporley and surrounding area, with networking events that include guest speakers, all with the intent of helping to improve the business and to offer any help they desire. The first networking event took place on 25th March which saw the re-launch of the business alliance, the event saw two presentations including guest speaker Tim Cross who kindly made a presentation on Tax Authorities, and also a presentation by Gemma and Ellie on Social Networking as a form of marketing and advertising. The event was very successful with representatives from a range of business including Molly Mop, Collingswood recruitment, Hall Livesey Brown and Phoenix Accounting. The night ran smoothly with two presentations and some short speeches as well as some networking too. We have received great feedback from the attendees and hope to improve and build the Tarporley Business Alliance and have great triumph with it. A second meeting is to follow sometime around May/ June in which we hope to repeat the success hopefully on a bigger level.

If you wish to find out any more information about the Tarporley Business Alliance please email us – [tarporleyba@live.com](mailto:tarporleyba@live.com) or you can find us on twitter @tarporleyba and on Facebook by searching for Tarporley Business Alliance  
Gemma Penk and Ellie Sharpe 12HH



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